

Morale Booster On Eve Of Cup Test

By 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers 4;

Hounslow 0

TO the delight of their now enthusiastic supporters Wycombe Wanderers remained in winning vein on Saturday with a cool, almost contemptuous, win in a friendly game at Loakes Park over Athenian Leaguers Hounslow.

At a first glance the game itself might seem of little significance—but for the Wanderers' coach Don Welsh, the Barnet "spies" and the few still doubtful Wycombe fans, the match was of some importance.

For Don Welsh it was the last opportunity before the cup-tie of putting his F.A. Cup-tie plans into action in an actual match atmosphere. For the Barnet spies it was the game in which they could size up their cup opponents. And for the fans who still doubt the Wanderers' capabilities it was another chance to judge.

Both Welsh and the fans must have been pleased—but for the Barnet spies there was a warning in this victory. Even at half-pace the Wanderers showed too much know-how and goalscoring ability for the disjointed Hounslow men.

What must have impressed everyone watching the game was the solidarity of the Wycombe defence. Lewis and Pullin both kept their wingers confined to the touchlines, while Roystone and Gale kept Syrett well covered.

HIS BEST YET

Dave Thomas, who had his best game of the season, covered every inch of the ground, carving out chances for his equally hard-working forward line.

He was involved in both of Wycombe's first two goals. First he sent over a cross which Cooper headed on to Bassett, who scored. Then, after 24 minutes, he combined with uncanny skill with Len Worley to give Cooper goal number two.

Len Worley, who now appears to be playing more unselfishly than ever before, slid a pass to the roving Bassett and then tried an overhead kick from the return. His shot hit a defender and Horseman gathered the rebound and hammered it back into the net.

In the second half Beck was given a trial at inside-forward, in place of Cooper, but it is perhaps significant that only one more goal was added. Bassett was the scorer after Gale had hit the goalkeeper with a tremendous shot.

REF'S WARNING

In this second period Wycombe virtually toyed with Hounslow. The pace was slowed right down, to the annoyance of the fans who again turned up in large numbers for a floodlit game.

However, an earlier announcement by the referee that he would abandon the game if there was any trouble, seemed to have its effect.

Both wingers, Worley and Hodges, showed that given enough of the ball they could be match winners themselves, while inside-men Bassett and Horseman never gave up challenging for the ball.

In all, an impressive pre-cup workout—if nothing else certainly another boost to steadily rising morale.

Wycombe.—D. Syrett; A. Lewis, G. Pullin; D. Thomas, P. Roystone, C. Gale; L. Worley, J. Cooper (J. Beck), D. Bassett, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.

Hounslow.—P. Snelling; D. Norman, R. Long; D. Evans, M. Emerson, J. Dipper; B. Somers, J. Grondona, N. Barlow, J. Watts, G. Shepherd.